At Nanded, a number of programmes and projects have been undertaken which include infrastructure development of Gurudwara area, development of city infrastructure and completion of construction work of museum. The prority projects are proposed to be completed in year 2008. While focus of commemoration is in Nanded, some of the projects and programmes are also proposed to be undertaken in other important places associated with Guru Gobind Singhji like development of Anandpur Sahib and development of Talwandi Sabo.

The events schedule is given below:—

1. Takhat Snan (Holy Bath) 28/10/2008
2. Diwali 29/10/2008
3. Guru-ta-Gaddi 30/10/2008
4. Nagar Kirtan 30/10/2008
5. Parlok Gaman 3/11/2008
6. Nagar Kirtan 4/11/2008.

Valuable paintings in Lalit Kala Akademy

2356. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that some valuable paintings in the possession of Lalit Kala Akademy have been replaced by fakes;

(b) whether Government proposes to have all paintings by renowned artists in its possession photographed by infrared cameras in order to arrest this mischief in the future; and

(c) whether Government is taking any step to properly catalogue and warehouse these precious paintings lying at Lalit Kala Akademy and National Gallery of Modern Art?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Though there have been some allegations from certain quarters that some paintings had been replaced by fakes, but the Akademi did not find any truth in those allegations.

(b) and (c) The art works in the reserve collection of National Gallery of Modern Art, are properly warehoused under proper security and controlled enviornment. The digitization and cataloguing of these art works is proposed to be initiated during the current financial year. The Lalit Kala Akademi has already authenticated all its paintings and is in process of proper documentation to arrest any kind of possible mischief.

Development of Sattra in Assam

2357. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS:Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State of Assam has submitted a proposal for conservation and development of 135 numbers of Sattra to Government;

(b) whether it is also a fact that most of the age old historic Sattra are in deplorable condition;

(c) whether Government will take necessary steps for the conservation and development of these historic monument/Shrine/Sattra; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) A detailed Project proposal for conservation and development of 135 number of Sattra was received from the Government of Assam. It has been mentioned in the proposal that 135 Sattra Institutions of Assam have been identified in the 1st Phase of the Scheme for their development at an estimated cost of Rs. 96,59,00,000/-. The project proposal submitted by the Government of Assam has been forwarded to Planning Commission for its consideration. The Ministry of Culture has suggested constitution of an Expert Group consisting of eminent members from various fields such as Archaeology, Anthropology, Performing Art, etc. for the purpose.

Protection of historical monuments

2358. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Centrally protected historical monuments and sites under ASI across the country have disappeared without leaving any trace;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government/ASI is not giving adequate attention towards the protection of historical monuments/sites;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the strategies to be adopted to preserve such historical monuments during the year 2008-09?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Out of 3667 monuments/sites of national importance under the control of ASI, thirty-five protected monuments/sites across the country are found to be untraceable during the course of survey of monuments/sites. The main causes are due to a variety of factors like rapid urbanization, construction of multistoreyed residential and commerical buildings, implementation of development projects, etc. The details are given at the Statement (*See* below).

(c) to (e) Archaeological Survey of India is giving adequate attention towards the protection of the centrally protected monuments/sites. The watch and ward of the monuments/sites have been strengthened by deploying private security guards, State Police personnel in addition to regular staff and CISF personnel at selected and important monuments. Efforts have been made to provide fencing of all the centrally protected monuments/sites, wherever necessary and feasible. In addition to the this provisions contained in the Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, Rules, 1959 and notification No. 1764 dated 16.06.1992, the Archaeological Survey of India's Circle heads have been vested with the powers of Estate Officer to proceed against offenders under the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, 1971. ASI has also initiated the preparation of a complete and detailed data-base of the monuments/sites of national importance.